



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
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*Commissioner*

March 9, 2009

**TO:** Chief School Administrators  
Charter School Lead Persons

**FROM:** Jay Doolan, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Educational Standards and Programs

**SUBJECT:** Policy Change: Highly Qualified Teacher Requirements for Teachers of Grade Five

This memo announces a change to the highly qualified teacher requirements for **teachers of general education and special education students in grade five**. Effective immediately, all teachers of grade five may meet highly qualified teacher requirements as **elementary generalists**. Teachers of grade five may meet these requirements as elementary generalists whether grade five is self-contained or departmentalized. This holds true whether grade five is housed in an elementary or middle school.

Teachers who have already achieved highly qualified status to teach grade five maintain that status. This policy, established in response to school districts' requests for more flexibility in grade five, enables schools to design instructional programs with highly qualified elementary generalists teaching grade five.

Both new and veteran teachers of grade five may meet highly qualified requirements as elementary generalists if they hold the following certificates:

- K-5 elementary certificate;
- N-8 elementary certificate;
- Teacher of the Handicapped certificate;
- Teacher of Students with Disabilities and K-5 certificate; and
- Teacher of Students with Disabilities and N-8 certificate.

Teachers who hold the middle school endorsement have already met the highly qualified requirement for teaching grade five.

Further information on highly qualified teacher requirements can be found by visiting [www.nj.gov/education/profdev/nclb](http://www.nj.gov/education/profdev/nclb). If you have any questions regarding the Highly Qualified Teacher requirements, please contact Carol Albritton, teacher quality coordinator, at (609) 777-4482 or by emailing [HQTeachers@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:HQTeachers@doe.state.nj.us).

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c: Members, State Board of Education

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